

Tara Williams, MMCCU (she/her)



Experience: 16+ years working in Co-operatives, Graduate of the International Centre for Co-operative Management Masters of Management in Credit Unions and Co-operatives, Founder of the Worker Co-op GIA Consulting Co-op, Board Member Terminal City Glass Co-op and CMEASC, Womens Equity Employee Resource Group Chair, Previous Leader of Bringing Women Together, Minerva Emerging Leaders Graduate, BC Co-op Developer

Expertise: Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Human Resources, Marketing and Member Engagement, Operations, Co-op Development

Strengths: Achiever, Arranger, Learner, Individualization, Competition

Why I'm interested in running for the CWCF Member at Large role:

With the life motto of "The world hasn't been given us to contemplate but to transform" (Arizmendiarieta) I am inspired not only by the potential of Co-operatives but by the strength of the Worker Co-operative movement. I believe it is the Worker Co-ops that truly are making a difference in the every day lives of individuals - frankly they are quickly becoming my favourite type of Co-op (don't tell the others;-)). I believe it truly is the Worker Co-ops that are leading the way in transforming how we work.

In my professional career I have had the opportunity to develop skills in Human Resources, Marketing, Member Engagement, Project Management, Product Management, Payments, Systems, Policies and Processes, Technology, and Operations. I am passionate about building community and attempt to be a strong ally using my voice and my power to amplify those of others. I believe both my lived experience and my professional experience working in the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Reconciliation spaces will help me to support the vision and strategies of CWCF. I also believe my background as a Founder of GIA Co-operative provides an understanding of the Worker Co-op Landscape from incorporation to demutualization and everything in between. The work I'm most passionate about is in understanding from the community where there are opportunities to accelerate impact for members and thus transforming how we operate as a society. Over the last few years Tara has been highly involved in incorporations, Marketing and Member Engagement Strategy work and Human Resources work and I believe that this will be a huge asset in supporting how we fulfill on the strategic vision of CWCF moving forward.

I hope you will consider me for the Member at Large role on the CWCF board.

A bit more about Tara:

Tara (she/her) is a bi-racial woman of Cantonese American born Chinese and White Canadian born English, Welsh and Dutch descent. She grew up and now lives on the lands of the Coast Salish Peoples, the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) sə́lilwətaʔ /Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations and has immigrant roots to the lands of the Muwekma Ohlone peoples. She acknowledges the privilege of being a cisgender settler, masters educated, neurotypical, partial woman of colour.

She is committed to building more equitable communities through leveraging the power of the Co-operative model to break down systemic barriers and support communities to grow through co-operation.

As a visionary leader in the Co-operative landscape, she leverages her expertise to shape strategic visions and curate collaborative experiences. A founding Member of GIA Consulting Co-operative, she supports organizations to build comprehensive and actionable solutions in Member Engagement, Marketing, and Human Resources, setting the stage for Co-operative success. With a profound understanding of the Co-operative model's potential, Tara champions its power to dismantle systemic barriers and foster inclusive growth. At Vancity Credit Union, she has taken the lead in the Women's Equity Employee Resource Group, amplifying diverse voices through an intersectional lens. Through her work in Bringing Women Together, Tara has actively challenged the limitations of white feminism, pushing for a truly intersectional understanding of women's struggles.

Tara has served on several Co-operative Boards including as Co-Chair and HR Lead for Terminal City Glass Co-operative - the first Glass Blowing Not-for-Profit Producer Co-op in Canada, held several roles including President of the Co-operative Management Education Alumni and Student Co-operative and the Co-operative Management Education Co-operative.

Favourite Co-operative Principle: Principle 5 - Education, Training and Information. This principle resonates for me as a Co-op Educator. I believe that it is this foundation which will make a stronger Co-operative future.

Masters Research Paper: How Co-operatives Will Adapt to the Artificial Intelligence Revolution (2018)

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